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2600 Magazine
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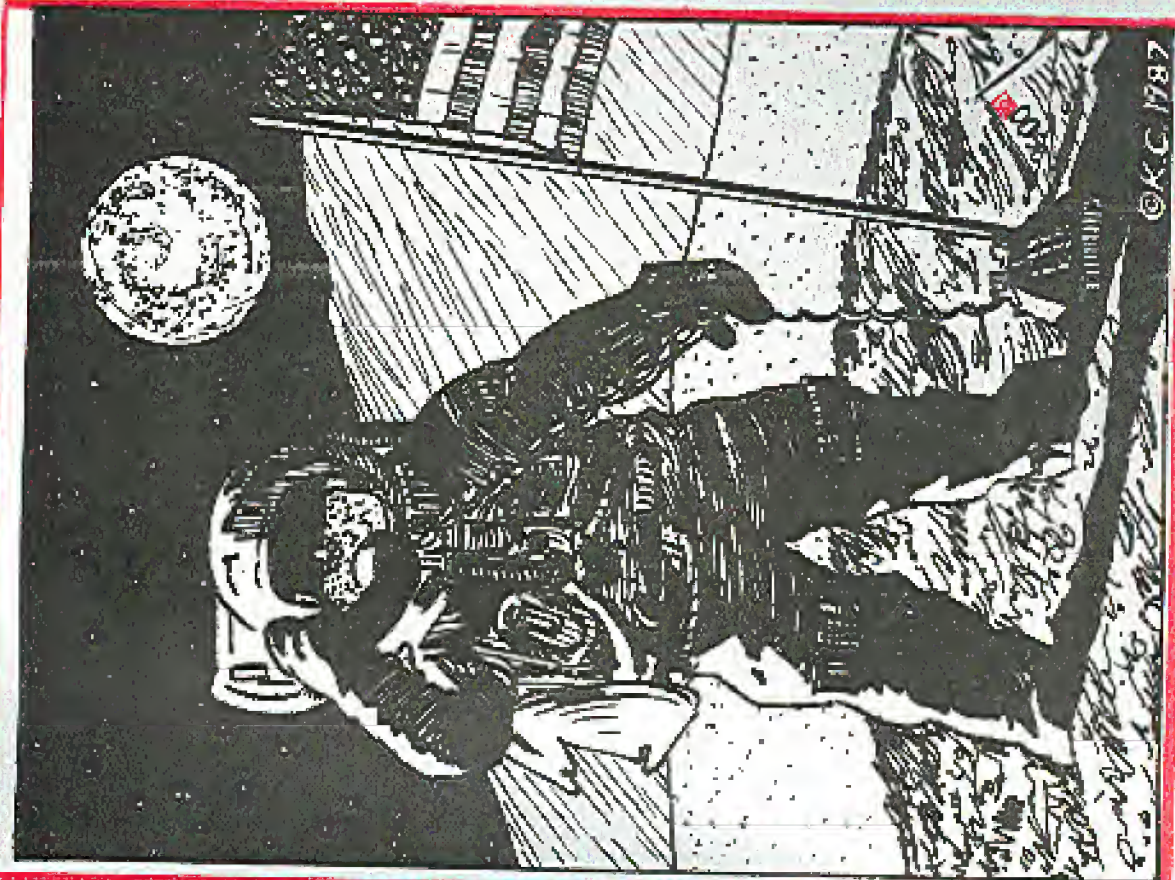
The Monthly Journal of the American Hacker

Volume 4, Number 10

October, 1987

\$2

Worried about
financial expenses?



New York's

IMIAS

By Marc...

Just when you thought you'd had enough of Dial-A-Job and the jumbo lines, New York Telephone has decided to give you more opportunities to waste your money. The number of information providers, or IPs, is limited on the 976/970 systems. This is because no one has ever made a switch large enough to handle all the potential calls that could be made from 6 million households to a Dial-A service. The smaller systems that work around the nation cannot handle this market. Instead, New Yorkers get a dozen or so lane services, limited to 57 seconds each, while the variety of products in smaller markets dwartus by comparison. In Los Angeles, for example, there are over 500 IPs. Why not here?

New York Telephone said they couldn't handle it. Once when they advertised the Dial-A-Santa service during the Muppet Show, the network was overrun with calls. From then on, the policy was clear...we can't use the POTS, or public switches, for these services. Now, New York Telephone's division called THE Entertainment Network (for some reason, "THE" is capitalized and underlined) is trying to make up for lost time. By the second quarter of 1988, they expect to have the nation's biggest and most state-of-the-art switch in place dedicated to handling all 976/970 numbers, plus two new ones: 540 and 550.

The switch is an AT&T 4ESS and it'll be located in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. That was deemed the most convenient location where they can have it interface the network (and where there was enough space in a central office). Its job is to take all the 976/970/540/550 numbers dialed throughout the LATA without the customers having to use an area code. That will mean lots of central office (CO) reprogramming and rewiring.

Rather than make all the IPs move to Williamsburg, they located the heartend that interfaces with the IPs in the central office at East 56th Street. That location was chosen based on several criteria. One, the building has to be "sitting on fiber". It needs around the clock maintenance crews, floor space, and has to meet the demands of the marketing department

(something that appears to bewilder the engineering department). Marketing, in trying to satisfy the IPs, had to choose a place that was in a safe neighborhood, was geographically located, and had easy access to mass transit. At a recent meeting where the IPs were first told that Telco picked a region that probably has the most expensive real estate in the world, they blew up. The East 56th Street CO roughly serves East 45th Street to East 64th Street and runs from the East River to 5th Avenue and includes Roosevelt Island and the United Nations. Telco would even like to pick the buildings within the region that have the best potential for an easy wire out. (As if the IPs really care what's easy for the installers!)

The 976 folks are now located around a lower Manhattan CO and might have to separate. Initially when a new switch is activated, it will not handle the 976 numbers itself. That won't happen until about fourth quarter 1988 when they retire the current switch. Until then, all the LATA CO's will route the calls to the Williamsburg CO, then to East 56th, then to lower Manhattan (simple, huh?).

Why go through all of this? Money, and lots of it. With a dedicated switch with a capacity of 64,000 lines (don't tell anyone, that's proprietary), they think they'll clean up. The new system has the most outrageous ways of making them money. It's called IMAS—Integrated Mass Arrangement System. The "I" was going to stand for interactive, but that would not have included the passive broadcast system (which is jargon for 976/970).

Some of the features of the new switch are really remarkable. It's completely digital, (although analog trunks can be made available to vendors using older equipment). Coin-operated, operator-assisted, and calling cards cannot access the system. Long distance calls had routinely been a problem for the mass arrangers. Some of Ma Bell's bastard children don't believe in passing on the money to credit New York Tel. If New York doesn't see the cash, neither does the IP. The new switch will have the capacity to determine if an agreement has been signed between the slings and will

either pass on the 976 calls or deny access. Locally, New York Tel used to maintain direct lines from switches that border on LATA to pass on the 976 calls. However, their eagle-eyed Legal Department made them turn these over to AT&T Long Lines.

550

Let's start with 550. That will be for the Group Bridging Service (GBS). According to a tariff filed, GBS is a vendor-operated entertainment-related teleconferencing service. The service provides telephone users, (initially) within a limited geographic area, the ability to call a publicist number to join an ongoing, casual, group conversation. The telephone company provides to vendors Group Bridging Service lines and transport over the network. The vendor furnishes the necessary teleconferencing equipment and monitoring functions to ensure free flowing conversations and, if necessary, isolate or disconnect abusive or unruly callers from the service.

Right now, this service is being offered in Nassau and Suffolk counties only. In Nassau, access to GBS is limited to the following CO designations: 239, 240, 264, 285, 293, 367, 371, 391, 420, 454, 531, 598, 681, 692, 694, 752, 753, 789, and 842. Again, it all goes well by second quarter 1988. This will be LATA-wide. The IPs were made to locate in the area covered by the Garden City CO District for Nassau's GBS lines, or the Patchogue CO District for Suffolk's. When the new switch goes online, they'll have to pack up and move to midtown (real sweat).

Let's talk...money. From the customer, 20 cents for the first minute, and 10 cents for each additional minute connected to the GBS service. On the (proposed) phone bills, the calls will be designated on a separate page as having been traced to a GBS and will either repeat the number or the title of the service. (Try to explain this one to mom.) Of course, the IPs would prefer to see it buried as it is in many parts of the nation. To the vendor, compensation will be five cents per

(Continued on page 20)

TALKING TO STRANGERS CAN BE COSTLY.

Here are the facts:

It can take 10 minutes and several dollars to get a long distance service.
For just \$25 to be the central and for 1 minute for you, you can get a long distance service or other long distance calls. Or you can just wait.
Enter now, you'll know how much you're spending by a long distance on your long distance service.

The 976/970/540/550 switch will be a lot of fun to use and you'll be able to use it for a long time. It's a lot of fun to use and you'll be able to use it for a long time. It's a lot of fun to use and you'll be able to use it for a long time. It's a lot of fun to use and you'll be able to use it for a long time.



New York Telephone
A BELL COMPANY

Telephone company responds to criticism of Touch-tone fees

BY BRUCE BERMAN
 The July 23 issue of The Village Voice carried a viewpoint which from Telephone Service Inc. of New York

Just after a no-frills lunch, dinner in Under a New York State Public Service Commission (NYSP) will, anyone using Touch-tone provided by the phone company must pay for it. It's Touch-tone, you're supposed to pay for it. If you aren't paying now, you may be asked to do so before long. Call of New York Telephone's rates are regulated by the PSC).

There's nothing improper here. That is, if you're not paying for Touch-tone. When customers pay for Touch-tone charges of \$10.55. This is reasonable and covers the administrative cost of installing a Central Office equipment that records the electronic pulses that will arrive from relay to Touch-tone 300-gamma toll paid. Touch-tone dialing mechanically, customers do not have to pay for it.

A no-frills menu order connection Touch-tone service also makes the customer to cover any long distance charges. Touch-tone service also makes the customer to cover any long distance charges. Touch-tone service also makes the customer to cover any long distance charges.

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There is no free lunch. If you want the speed and convenience of Touch-tone, you are supposed to pay for it.

ability, through computer programming, to detect unusual use of Touch-tone switching system, the company gains the ability to control any long distance charges. Touch-tone service also makes the customer to cover any long distance charges. Touch-tone service also makes the customer to cover any long distance charges.

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telco response

After months of trying, we've finally managed to get a response from the telephone company concerning our battle to eliminate the fee for touch tone service (see July 1987 issue).

We've received a fair amount of publicity concerning this matter. Consumer-oriented radio stations like WMOA in New York have shown a great interest and devoted time to the growing battle. Several newspapers have reprinted our press release and it was one of those that drew the response which was written by Bruce Reisman, a staff director of media relations for New York Telephone. Since more than a month passed between the printing of the press release and Reisman's reply, we believe that some consultation was involved and that this is pretty much the official view of New York Telephone.

"There is nothing improper here," Reisman states. "This is the practice throughout the United States... It's longstanding public policy." The same words could have been used to describe racial segregation once. The fact that an unfair practice is occurring all over does not make it right or justifiable. And the populace is most definitely waking up to this unfairness.

He goes on to justify the cost, claiming central office equipment that recognizes tones has to be paid for, as well as the labor involved in making the change from pulse to tone. This logic is so flimsy that a child could knock it over. As we said in our press release, touch tone decoding devices are standard equipment for practically every central office in existence. Every electronic switch has the capability of allowing touch tones on all of its lines. The only thing preventing this is an "M" instead of a "Y" inside the customer database. Which brings us to the labor question. Just how much should the company make in for changing an "M" to a "Y" anyway? Reisman says \$10.55 is reasonable. We say let's stop kidding the public.

We were accused of misreading when we claimed that customers way often lost the use of their touch tones when an area upgraded to electronic switching. Not so, says the phone company—the customer is always asked to pay before service is disrupted. Well, we don't base our conclusions on mere speculation. We know of many people who have lost the use of their tones the instant their central office got out over to electronic switching. The fact that the phone company claims this never happens is further evidence of their distorted perception.

It's only eight cents a day, they protest. Figure out how many people are paying the phone company eight cents a day for doing absolutely nothing. Take into account that the cost is higher for business customers, a fact they conveniently forget to mention. This is a very large amount of money.

And finally, the usual mistruth: "Touch tone service also enables the customer to conveniently bank or shop electronically from home." This is simply not true. As long as you have a touch tone phone, you can use any of those bank-at-home services. The only thing the phone company can do is prevent you from placing a call with tones. Once you're connected, they have no way of deactivating your tones. The tones, after all, are created inside your phone, not inside the phone company. If everyone realized that, their policy would never have survived this long.

But things are changing. There will be an article in the November issue of Popular Communications that points out the unfairness of this fee, not just in New York, but nationwide. We are bombarding the New York Public Service Commission with information about this and we expect some kind of a reaction from that entity. We need your continued support. Spread the word. Tell your parents. Tell your children. Tell your elected officials. Write letters to your local papers and send us a copy. If you're not clear on the facts or have any questions or comments, call us at (516) 791-2500.

customer body. This is a longstanding practice which is defensible to the overall public good. Each year, there is done a great deal of work to make the price of service affordable to the general public. The company is always asked to pay before service is disrupted. Well, we don't base our conclusions on mere speculation. We know of many people who have lost the use of their tones the instant their central office got out over to electronic switching. The fact that the phone company claims this never happens is further evidence of their distorted perception.

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the telecom informer

BY GOLDSTEIN

If you're thinking of stealing a bus in Manhattan, you should know that unless you get around an electronic anti-theft device, you'll have the words "Call Police" flashing in the front where the destination usually is. A couple of months ago that's exactly what happened. Except nobody noticed the flashing sign, or at least no one thought anything of it. It seems this guy went around picking up people for free and depositing them at their doorsteps. "All my life I've wanted to do this," he said. "We've seen surprisingly few pirate television transmissions recently. In fact, we haven't seen any. But in Poland, they're becoming rather frequent—and popular. Most recently, a Solidarity radio station broke in on the sound frequency of a TV broadcast to urge

Polks to shelter a Soviet army deserter who was in town.... Massachusetts is buying the Cirrus system, which means that Cirrus customers will be able to use Mastercard's telecommunications capabilities and Mastercard will become the world's leading debit card organization. This will link together about 30,000 automatic teller machines starting January 1, 1988. CI ASS service is being tested in New Jersey with features like Return Call, Call Block, Priority Call, Repeat Call, Select Forward, Call Trace, and Identa Call. These features make it easier to identify incoming calls and to get through to busy numbers. If any of our subscribers have the opportunity to participate in these tests, please contact us. We have a whole series of experiments we'll like to try on these features.... We may as well get used to it, nationwide beepers are popping up everywhere. At a cost of \$30 to \$50 a month, it will soon be almost impossible to be out of range.... US Sprint is getting through hell. Combining the telephone networks and accounting systems of Eastern Telecommunications and GTE has proven to be a much

greater task than originally anticipated. Already, \$75 million has been written off in unacceptable accounts, apparently due to an inability to function efficiently.

Currently, there are three different Sprints in existence: the old GTE Sprint, the old US Tel, and the new US Sprint. And introducing the new fiber optic network and FDN cards has added to the pressure.... Sprint is filing a number of civil lawsuits against people who are accused of long distance fraud. So far, the lawsuits are for \$20 million plus penalties and have been filed in Kansas City and Seattle. According to Bernard A. Bannan, US Sprint vice president and associate general counsel, Sprint is filing lawsuits because criminals' prosecutors don't have the resources to pursue all leads in these

cases.... Meanwhile, a really big fraudster has been caught selling Sprint and MCI codes for \$100 each. Thomas Alvord of South Shore Electronics in Lake Tahoe, California allegedly used a computer to scan for codes and even advertised his service in the yellow pages. He used the name "General Bell" which showed up right next to Pacific Bell's Customers, would obtain their codes by calling a voice mailbox. It's believed that this one person cost the long distance companies more than two million dollars. As long as they know it's not hacking.... AT&T is now distributing free copies of a business-to-business Italian yellow page directory. If you have a need for Italian yellow pages, call 800-538-BROCK. In the mood for some fun? In Washington, DC, students living in college dorms now can disconnect their telephone service without even talking to a Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone representative. Bell Atlantic is testing a service called "quies termination" or "Q.T." A student uses a touch tone phone and calls a special number any time of the day or night. Voice prompts guide the caller through the entire

process. The system can store a maximum of 300 disconnected requests. So far, we're unable to determine what, if any, security precautions are present here.... C&P is also experimenting with distinctive ringing. By assigning up to three telephone numbers to the same phone line, each line can produce a different type of ring. Residents will pay about \$4 a month for one additional phone number and \$6 for two. We hope they don't mislead people into thinking they're getting three separate phone lines that can all be used at the same time.... The following news item appeared recently in *Network World*. "A Bell Communications Research, Inc. scientist may have found a solution for often-annoying call-waiting tones.

Deluxe call waiting, not currently available, can temporarily suspend the call-waiting feature, quell the tone, and signal the second caller to try later. This solution requires complex software to program computerized switches to execute the multistep signaling between users; telephone company central offices and those placing the calls on the busy line. "Let's cut the crap! This service has already been available, at no charge, in many locations for years. All a caller has to do is dial *70 or 1170 before placing a call or during a call and call waiting is disabled. The tone is "quelled" and, as far as signaling the second caller to try again—ever hear of a busy signal? That's what they're talking about, although they make it sound so much more complex. So who is this scientist that has found a solution that already exists? Bell

Communications Research and Network World are doing us all a disservice by announcing an invention that is nothing new. No doubt this is happening so that we'll get used to the idea of paying for it. Deluxe call waiting, what next?.... The American Credit Card Telephone Company says it plans to offer a new service that would let customers charge

long distance calls to major credit cards from any public or private touch tone phone. A customer would dial an 800 number and enter a Visa, American Express, or Mastercard number. The number would be validated and the call processed in seconds. According to the *New York Times*, this new service will compete with calling cards offered by AT&T. They also say that AT&T plans to offer a similar service by 1989. Does this mean AT&T will be competing with themselves? It wouldn't surprise us one bit.... The FBI is installing personal

computer networks at remote sites that will be linked via gateways to mainframes at regional data processing centers. The project is known as Intelligent Workstation (IWS) and calls for more than 8,000 terminals, 700 networks, and 640 gateways. Hewlett Technology of McLean, VA was awarded the contract.... According to a new government report, computers are now keeping track of more than seven million American workers. They monitor rest breaks and productivity, and even the number of individual keystrokes on a terminal or typewriter. The report was requested by Representative Don Edwards of California and was prepared by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment. It's called "The Electronic Supervisor: New Technology, New Tensions." "We are becoming a surveillance society," Edwards said. "Every day we are seeing new invasions of the privacy and dignity of workers. We have occupational health and safety laws to protect workers' bodies. Now Congress needs to respond to technological threats to their dignity and privacy." The report, which describes today's office as "an electronic sweatshop," said most jobs now monitored by computers were clerical data-entry type positions, but the management technique is spreading to

INTERNATIONAL NUA'S

(accessible from Tymnet & Telenet)
PUBLIC ACCESS SYSTEMS

Airos:	026245890040004	West Germany	login: shox
MAT	026245890010006	West Germany	login: guest
		Switzerland	
Cybertalk	022846911003		user:Clad0543 pw: guest
OTHER NUMBERS AROUND THE WORLD			
0 234 231354354	0 234 220641141	0 234 239232323	
0 234 219200101	0 234 221222225	0 234 275300102	
0 234 227230301	0 234 212301186	0 234 270712217	
0 234 219200871	0 234 222715151	0 234 253265165	
0 234 275317173	0 234 247300103	0 234 219709110	
0 234 219709210	0 234 263259159	0 234 270712221	
0 234 219200190	0 234 219806160	0 234 219200297	
0 234 274200103	0 234 219200394	0 234 262500484	
0 234 222530303	0 234 241260106	0 234 231354354	
0 234 233458158	0 234 239232323	0 234 241260106	
0 234 241260260	0 234 246240240	0 234 251248248	
0 234 253265165	0 234 253300142	0 234 253300124	
0 234 258200106	0 234 258240242	0 234 260227227	
0 234 261643143	0 234 261643210	0 234 261643343	
0 234 263259159	0 234 270712217	0 234 273417317	
0 234 273417217	0 234 275317177	0 234 290468168	
0 234 290624242	0 234 292549149	0 234 293212212	
0 234 299212221	0 234 3078113	0 234 219200118	
0 234 223519111	0 234 219200222	0 234 252724241	
0 234 2192001082	0 234 222339399	0 234 212301187	
0 234 222236163	0 234 2130001511	0 234 215710104	
0 234 21440012	0 234 293212212	0 234 274253385	
0 234 248300106	0 234 248321321	0 234 227230231	

Networks like Telenet and Tymnet usually require an ID of some sort before access to international numbers is granted. Watch future issues for more numbers. Let us know if you get through to any of these.

24 Hr. BBS's in the Republic of South Africa

The Catalyst BBS	300	(021) 66-3112
The Catalyst BBS	1200	(021) 69-2792
Micro Baud	300	(021) 65-1603
Beonet NDS	300	(021) 591-4954
SSSBBS	300	(021) 597-1918
The Catalyst P.E.	300	(041) 33-6176
The Catalyst P.E.	12/24	(041) 34-2859
PEBS/PEREL	300	(041) 30-4573
Border BBS	300	(0431) 55-886
The Catalyst JHB	300	(011) 782-3332
The Catalyst JHB	1200	(011) 782-3341
Ideas BBS	3/12	(011) 643-3724
Techair BBS	12/24	(011) 642-9919
Uninet (16 Lines)	300	(011) 476-4519
Uninet (over network)		06550 11101207
Fido-net	12/24	(011) 407-5027
Pyrolo mountain	3/12	(011) 407-5327
The Catalyst DBN	300	(031) 764-0353
MABEL	300	(031) 86-7858
Highway Software	300	(031) 74-3561
VALTRONICS	300	(031) 42-1923

THE INFO ON THESE TWO PAGES COURTESY OF
The Greek

READER RESPONSE

Verification and Tracing

Dear 2600:

I have a few things to say and a few questions to ask.

First of all, a lot of people were complaining about the printed size of your recent issues. I personally like the size. I have worked out a nice binder arrangement for them. If you are familiar with the methods that many libraries use for storing magazines and newspapers, you might want to make a smaller version of those for the issues.

However, I am not too crazy about the way you always have the articles continued somewhere else in the issues.

Now, onto the questions: In the October 1985 issue you had a schematic for a blue box. There is one problem, however. The 8038 chip just is used in it is not available anymore. No companies have it or any replacement listed. Are there any that are known that might be more available or can you print a different schematic that doesn't require that part?

I have grown curious lately about the phone systems and what can be done on them through the blue box tones. I have seen a lot of stuff geared towards the American systems. The problem is that I am in Canada and therefore the info is useless. We don't have the multiple carriers and such. To place a call is simple enough. I'm more interested in the verification and things like that. Is there any chance of putting out a list of the different ways to do the known things in the form of a reference manual or whatever as a special issue?

One last thing. I would very much like to know if there is any way to trace a call without the phone company's help and without their knowledge. I have a second line available to do the trace. We have recently had some new

switching equipment installed but I don't know what type it is yet.

Joshua Falkon

As far as finding the equivalent of the discontinued chip, we can only hope some of our readers have found a replacement or alternative and are willing to share it with us. We would be most grateful if our readers would send in any schematics for such devices that they come across—and we know there are some pretty incredible devices out there!

Perhaps you're a little confused about the application of blue box tones. It's true that in Canada you don't have as many long distance companies as the United States. But these companies generally work on touch tone, not multi-frequency (MF) blue box tones. MF tones work quite well in Canada. In fact, they probably work better up there than they do down here. Many central offices in the United States are modernizing, so are the connections within the primary long distance network (AT&T). And one of the results of modernization is an inability to effectively use blue box tones to route calls on your own. Consequently, many phone phreaks call to remote places (more than a few of which are in Canada), where blue box tones still work, and route their calls from there.

Regarding verification and tracing—these require a fair amount of knowledge, experience, and connections (the human kind). However, we do plan on running articles on these topics in the future.

Missing Blue Box Chip

Dear 2600:

I am writing in order to find out some information. I've written a couple of times before about the same thing, so maybe you can help me out. My main question is about page 2-69's blue box

plans and whether or not they are correct. If they are correct or if they have been updated I would like to know so I can experiment.

Secondly, I'd like to know if you have any listings for toll free bulletin boards or 718 boards. I hope you will get back to me on this—it will be greatly appreciated.

Here is a question you might have one of your staff try to answer for the newsletter readers. It's a problem I have and I'm sure others do too. Being I only have one phone in my house, how can I run a PC through a modem with call waiting?

KM

According to the letter before yours, you'll have trouble getting parts for that blue box. We do expect to be getting other plans, however.

Check the following letter for an answer to your inquiry on 718 boards. Boards are very easy to find. Simply call any board that you know of. If you don't know any, ask your local computer store and either read the messages that frequently have bulletin board advertisements or look for a function that lists bulletin board numbers. Eventually, you'll find one nearby.

Call waiting is a very annoying problem for anyone with a computer. The beep of a second call coming in frequently interferes with data flow. As a result, the phone companies are "introducing" a service that should have been available from the start, and in some cases was. There are a few different names for it, but basically it allows you to turn off call waiting for one call, usually by dialing *70 or *170 before making a call. In many areas, this feature always existed but was never publicized. Now that people are expressing an interest in it, you'll hear about it and also get charged for it. History just keeps repeating itself.

It might be advantageous to drop call waiting altogether and just get another phone line with trigover from your first line. In most places, there is no charge for this feature, at least not yet. And it gives you the freedom of talking on the phone and sending data at the same time. A two line phone will deliver most of the features the phone company charges monthly fees for: call waiting, three-way, speed dialing. The charge for a second phone line will just about equal all of the little charges they throw in.

BBS Numbers

Dear 2600:

Here are the phone numbers for two computer bulletin boards. 718-499-9277 goes to the O.T.O., an occult order which deals with magic, wicca, and sci-fi. The next number, 404-377-1141 is Illumi-net. They deal with parapsychology, conspiracy theory, UFO's, etc. They're on line 24 hours a day. Have fun.

HAL 9000/Beast 666

Thanks for the numbers. If you have some interesting bulletin boards, let us know. And remember to support bulletin boards by participating in them. They're one of the most vital links to freedom of speech that we have in the 1980's.

Getting Started

Dear 2600:

I am sort of a new kid on the block when it comes to hacking. So could you please indulge me if I am not of equal proportion to you. Could you tell me what steps I should take as a beginner in the field of hacking? First I would like to give you a background on myself if I may. I am 15 years of age. I am a known under-achiever in my school. My teachers press me for answers but I refuse to comply with their methods. My hobbies are computers and

(Continued on page 15)

THOSE SILLY CODES

A reader from Oregon recently wrote: "Some friends and I were on a conference call (social engineering) our local SOC (Switching Control Center). We were trying to find out where a call to an unknown exchange was going. The man at the SOC asked us what the 'silly code' for the originating office was. We, of course being confused, told him we would check with our supervisor and call back. What is a silly code? How do I find out what mine is?"

Our technical writers did some investigating and this is what they came up with:

In this instance the word that is pronounced "silly" is actually CLLI (Common Language Location Identification). Quoting from a Bellcore publication: "This code set uniquely identifies locations ranging from earth stations, building poles, manholes, etc. Codes can be used to identify existing or proposed buildings and can aid long range planners, current planners, equipment engineers, installers and maintenance personnel in their work. Location codes identify cities, states, and foreign countries as well as buildings and specific offices within buildings." A CLLI code is an 11-character code used by the telephone companies to identify the location and type of a central office. The 11-character identifier is broken down as follows—town: 4 alpha characters, state: 2 alpha characters, building: 2 alphanumeric, and building subdivision: 3 alphanumerics.

Here are some examples of towns: 852MD—Richmond, VA; CHIC0—Chicago, IL; D11 S—Dallas, TX; ONVR—Denver, CO; NYCM—New York (NY City Manhattan), NY.

States adhere to standard postal abbreviations, with the additions of: PR—Puerto Rico; VI—Virgin Islands; AB—Alaska, Canada; BC—British Columbia, Canada; MB—Manitoba, Canada; MD—New Brunswick, Canada; NF—Newfoundland, Canada; NT—Northwestern Territories, Canada; NS—Nova Scotia, Canada; ON—Ontario, Canada; PE—Prince Edward Island, Canada; PQ—Quebec, Canada; SK—Saskatchewan, Canada; YT—Yukon, Canada.

The building field will always have an X in it if the central office in question does not belong to AT&T or a Bell Operating Company (BOC). The

building subdivision of an end office or subscriber-serving central office uses area codes like the following: X being numeric; Mdx—Market Group, used to represent electromechanical switches such as crossbar; Gdx—Central Group, used to represent a 1, 1A, 2, 2B, or 3LSS office; Ddx—Digital Switch, used to represent a 5ESS, DM5100, or other digital switches.

Small independent phone companies often make their building subdivision codes the exchange code of their central office, such as 821, 423, etc. AT&T numbers its 4ESS toll switches with a 2-digit numeric followed with a T (571, 131).

Here are some examples of CLLI codes: CHLVVAXA921 would be Charlottesville, Virginia, independent telephone company, building A, exchange 921. UNVR02U060 would be Denver, Colorado, Zuni Street, ESS machine 0. CH0GL0257T would be Chicago, Illinois, building 2, 4ESS number 57. (Note: in cases where the building subdivisions in x01, the building code may be the number that comes after an error message from that particular 4ESS. For example, CH0SHL0257T's error message might be: "four cell cannot be completed as dialed. Please check the number and dial again. 312 2T." They don't say "02".)

In the future, if you have any technical or not-so-technical questions about computers, phones, or anything else, send them in. If we get enough information about the subject, we'll publish the answer in the form of a short article. Otherwise, questions will appear in the letters section. Our address is 2600 Editorial Department, PO Box 99, Missile Island, NY 11954-0099.

MIKE AGRANOFF

Author of

"The Ballad of Captain Crunch"

published earlier this year in 2600
will appear in concert on Nov. 21
at 8 pm in Mount Sinai, New York.
CALL 516-751-1339 FOR INFO

DON'T BE A SLAVE



W.O.R.M. - For CyberPunks

Subersion By Technology

Send \$1 To: W.O.R.M. - Room 250

2228 S. El Camilo Real

San Mateo, California

94403



TO THE SYSTEM

basketball, mostly computers. My parents threaten to take away my computer which is an IBM PC if my grades don't improve and tell them I's are average but they still want A's from me. The computer is half mine—I put in well over two thousand dollars. Well, back to hacking. First, what are some approaches that I can take in getting into another computer system to explore it for the wealth of information that I could use? Next, is there any device or gadget I can make to tell when my phone call is being traced? Third, I would like to know if you have some of the "mally phone phreaking devices known to us hackers? If so, I would be willing to purchase them for a reasonable fee. Also, do you have a program called a worm. I would like it for a BBS that sent a logic bomb in a program to me. This bomb wiped my TI's memory right out.

US
If you need 2600 enough, you should get a good lawyer what kind of systems are out there and the "wealth of information" they contain. We can't condone breaking into any of them, but we can say that if you're determined and skilled, you'll most likely get into something. Hot water, in all probability. We know of no such device that could alert you to your phone being traced. Perhaps some government phones could do that, but we don't think it's possible at this stage in the game. Besides, how could it tell you that you were being traced before you actually got traced? It wouldn't do much good.

The 2600 Marketplace is your best bet for finding electronic devices. Ads are free to subscribers. We don't approve of logic bombs, but we do want to show you what they look like if anyone has one, please send it in (On paper, please.)

READER

Private Sector Style

Dear 2600:

After reading the June issue of 2600, I decided to get right into the idea of putting up a system that would be either a network or just another Private Sector. I already have a system up that has the exact same sub-boards as the Private Sector did. I also have most of your old g-file section and almost all of your digests already on line. Pretty good? My system has been up since the beginning of the year. However, I have had numerous hardware problems and the system has been up and down. I've raised my memory to two megabytes and now have a US Robotics 2400 baud modem. I also have a 20 megahard drive with about 14 megs left.

I was very impressed with the Private Sector and I have the same rules you did. No codes. Just information. Even there I am regulating what goes on heredit card fraud. If you or your readers want to call, the number is 213-559-7306.

We wish you took in the interests of freedom, don't go overboard with "regulating" discussions. Keep the codes and passwords from being posted, as well as anything obscene or offensive to users, but be careful with trying to control the flow of conversation too much or you'll be running a dictatorship. And if you have private mailboxes, they should remain private. System operators should not read their users' mail unless that is their stated policy.

More on Disclaimers

Dear 2600:

I would like to comment on your July issue, "On Disclaimers". Your response that there is "no such thing" as a "perfect disclaimer" is not correct. We have yet to be prosecuted or sued over any of our publications. No police entity has even talked to us about

RESPONSE

them! A Mc Bell security type once came to my home to lecture me on phone color boxes (1981). I threw him out. End of conversation!

I'm aware of a number of controversial BBS's run by teenagers with twice my IQ. However, when it comes to effectively disclaiming their user files, their IQ's drop to room temperature. The wrong approach to question users as to police affiliation. The right approach is to present controversial files for educational purposes only—even to state that no illegal use is suggested, implied, or intended. It also helps much to intermix purely illegal applications with those that are legal so it can't be claimed that your files have no reasonable applications except those that are illegal. For example, great sex associated with a plot is "necessary for plot development". Otherwise, it's just pornography.

John J. Williams
Consumertronics

Unfortunately, a lot of these rules still don't seem to apply to computer bulletin boards, even though they are in effect just another form of publication. We feel the key lies in making this connection clear to the people inside and outside the computer world.

And More

Dear 2600:

In response to "MAC77", the perfect BBS disclaimer is found in the Bill of Rights—the right to peacefully assemble, freedom of press, etc. This ending with a note on what are forbidden activities (dealing in drugs or child pornography) along with a warning that anyone in violation is endangering the board and will be banned, would be an adequate disclaimer. To JD: Why not bounce a laser off a cloud at night? (During World

War II morse code search lights were bounced off clouds.)

N. E. Mouse

British Payphones

Dear 2600:

The information printed on reusable British carphones in the January 1987 issue of 2600 is inaccurate. The frauds were perpetrated by the user inserting his card into the phone, turning it off and back on again (booting) with credits being reset and not removed when a call was placed.

It seems that people are catching onto the idea of bypassing the payphone altogether by attaching a handset with alligator clips to the main wire running into the phone. Users of this method have complained that they can hear the unit beeps occurring down the line over the voice line.

Almost-free international phone calls can be made from any coin operated payphone in the United Kingdom. To call anywhere in the world for approximately 30 seconds, all you have to do is insert 10 pence into the phone and dial. When 30 seconds are up, the phone will start beeping, prompting you to insert more money to continue the call.

Charges for calls from payphones don't go through the operator, but loop back to the payphone after the computer figures out where you are calling to. This process usually takes more than 30 seconds depending on where you are located in relation to an exchange.

John Drake

(Continued from page 7)

the telecom informer

other more complicated work. This is leading to a substantial increase in sales level. And it doesn't stop there.

Computers are installed on the dashboards of trucks to record speed or how long a driver stops for. They can now also be monitored by satellite. Huge tests are popping up all over the place and they can tell a great deal about a person's private life. Telephone logs and video cameras are also on the rise.

Today's technology makes it easy and cheap to monitor all kinds of things. In Alexandria, Virginia, there are devices called telecams. Basically they're telephones with cameras attached used to monitor people on probation and parole. The person calls the corrections officials after his "curfew." The telecam transmits a photograph of the person talking every few seconds. The authorities know that the person is at home and is not using an impersonator.

According to the authorities, the subjects don't think of this device as intrusive at all. It will be used more and more in the future, they say. "Every day an American wakes up, he or she is less free as far as private information is concerned," says Edwards. "Privacy is being invaded on a wholesale basis."

Computerized tracking in this country now begins at age five, when children claimed as dependents must apply for a Social Security number. That number becomes their name. One FBI system is named Big Brother. It plots relationships between people entered into a crime data bank and draws a graph of those relationships. It then reveals if the suspects seem to have violated labor-miscollecting statutes. The IRS is interested in a similar arrangement.

Where is it all heading? The State University of New York at Buffalo has adopted new computer methods to conceal the identity of reading material its students borrow. In November 1986, the university refused an FBI request for

records on material a foreign student borrowed. Later they were forced to surrender the records when served with a subpoena. Stephen Roberts, associate director of libraries for the university, says the new system destroys the link between a person and any books as soon as the books are returned. He says, "We think you ought to be able to read whatever you want without anybody asking questions about it." Amen.



W

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S

Due to a typesetting error that we still haven't figured out, a portion of last month's article on telephone operators was omitted. The missing portion, which should have appeared three lines from the bottom of page 6, column 1, reads:

• If you're in some other offices, New York Telephone has calls routed in such a way that if a 914 call is made and the area code is a valid one of LATA area code (914, 907, 415, 215, 902, 714, 412, etc.), the call goes to an AT&T TSPS. All area codes (WEA, SJC, New York City go to the TSPS. This includes valid New York City LATA area codes (718, 518, 212). . . .

And that wasn't all. Simple human error led to two tumbled-up phone numbers last month. One was the number for the Maintenance Data BBS on the letters page, column 1. The number should be 619-439-6924. The other number appeared in the first ad of the 2600 Marketplace. That number should be 514-238-6731. We hope these mistakes didn't cause anyone undue stress and we can only hope that similar occurrences don't

2600 marketplace

FOR SALE: Radio Shack CPA-1000 Pen Register. Just like new. \$70.00. J.C. Devendorf, 292261 Buckhaven, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677-1618.

DO YOU HAVE old outdated computer equipment lying around gathering dust? Why not donate it to 2600's growing bulletinboardnetwork? Support freedom of speech in your time! Contact 2600 at (516) 751-2600 or write 2600, PO Box 752, Middle Island, NY 11953.

FOR SALE: SWTPC Model CT-82 intelligent video terminal. Completely programmable (150 separate functions), RS-232C & parallel printer ports, full ASCII keyboard w/cursor control pad, 9" p-31 CRT w/2x12 dot matrix—up to 92 column capability. 32 baud rates to 38,400—much more. Excellent condition with full documentation. Originally \$800, sell for \$125 or best offer. Bernie Spindel, 144 W. Eagle Rd., Suite 108, Haven, PA 19063.

FOR SALE: COMMODORE 8-BIT ROBOTICS KIT by Fischertechnik. All hardware, interface software and manuals included. Mint condition. \$399. Send phone # to: Box 571, Forest Hills, NY 11375.

BEST HACKER AND PHREAKER written public domain software for the Apple II family. Two double sided diskettes, full of communication and disconnection utilities. These programs were combed from the best BBS and clubs nationwide. Send \$10 cash, check, or MO to Mark B., 1486 Murphy Rd., Wilmington, OH 45177-9338.

WANTED: Technical data for pay phones, dial matrix printers, and/or modems. Looking for schematics and theory of operation. Call (206) 293-6339/6395, 7 to 4 CST. Ask for Alan Parochellis. Cannot accept collect calls.

TAP BACK ISSUES—complete set (vol. 1-84) of high quality copies shipped via UPS or first class mail for \$100+. Over 400 pages of TAP material including schematics and special reports. Checks/M.O. to P.E.I., Cash, M.O. shipped same day. \$45E for sample. Steve G., P.O. Box 463, Mt Laurel, NJ 08054.

GOT SOMETHING TO SELL? Looking for something to buy? Or trade? This is the place! The 2600 Marketplace is free to subscribers! Just send us whatever you want to say without making it too long and we'll print it! Only people please, no business! Address: 2600 Marketplace, PO Box 99, Middle Island, NY 11953. Include your address label.

DOCUMENTATION on electron-c-digital PBX's and switching systems. Willing to trade/purchase. Also looking for Bell System Practices and other such paraphernalia. Write to Bill, c/o 2600, PO Box 752B, Middle Island, NY 11953.

32K MODEL 100, U1-Rom II, drive, TS-DOS, spreadsheet, modem cables, AC adapters, brochure included, good condition, \$1200. New, make an offer, Tandy 2000 version of WordPerfect 4.0 \$150 or trade for 1200 or 2400 baud external modem. IBM PC & XT & AT version of WordPerfect 4.1 and Mathplan 2.1. \$250 or trade for 1200 or 2400 baud external modem. Call (800) 244-6429 or (800) 233-5753. Ask for Paul.

WANTED: Looking for a good used 5 or 10 megabyte hard drive for the Apple II series of computers. If you are selling one or know of anyone that is then send replies to: Brian F., 1003 W. Main, Apt. 3, Orlawa, IL 61350.

TAIWANI. All Taiwan computers and accessories available for direct shipment for cost plus shipping plus 3% (quantities of 50 or more). Giles, PO Box 12566, El Paso, TX 79913.

2600 MEETINGS. Fridays from 5-8 pm at the Chicago Center in the Market—153 East 53rd Street, New York City. Come by, drop off articles, ask questions. Questions? Call 518-751-2600.

FOR SALE: Ex-Bellblue boxes, old and stylish, may even work! Also a wide range of old Bell comms equipment. Call (514) 288-6731 and ask for Rick for details.

IMIAS

minute. But don't forget, they still have to buy teleconferencing equipment, which is not made by Western Electric (AT&T Technologies) or Nytek; they must provide a "conversational facilitator" (usually one for every eight teleconferencists); they must pay monthly line charges; leave huge performance bonds on deposit (subject to forfeiture); pay foreign exchange charges if they locate outside of the East 38th Street CO district; and guarantee minimum performance levels. The new tariffs have not been written yet so the exact numbers are still not available.

The teleconferencing equipment must be pretty neat stuff. It must have the ability to play an introductory message, about a minute in length, welcoming the callers and explaining the costs. Then it must haul in the spots on a moderator's console and provide an about-tune every few minutes that the persons connected also, there must be a way for the moderator to identify and isolate/disconnect an unruly caller. There are about 15 companies that make GSS equipment.

\$40

Profit margins too thin for your tastes? Don't worry! Say hello to the \$40 overcharge. Its primary feature—Sponsor Selective Pricing (SSP), New York Tel will bill whatever the IP wants to charge. Although they haven't filed the tariff yet, the product manager said she'll probably pick some maximum (so they won't cause parents with little children to get heart failures). Telco will bill the vendor 30 cents for the first minute and five cents per 30-second unit. In an SSP system in Boston, an IP charges about double that. Now the money adds up. One IP reports that the same teleconferencing that he runs throughout the country earns \$1.19 to \$1.50 per call. With that kind of cash, why doesn't the phone company just have a percentage? After all, it's their network and their billing and collection department. The answer is that it just doesn't look right for a public utility to be "in bed" with a period line.

Note that the phone company will probably put a limit on the time you can spend on the \$40 overcharge. Five minutes is being discussed, but there's no final word yet. They are trying to

discourage the IP's from price shopping between the \$40 and \$50 exchanges.

Is teleconferencing all that it does? Nope. What if does is what the IP wants to do. You'll still transport the call, time it, and bill. What the IP does on his end is up to him. It could be an AudioText Service, like the passive broadcast announcing systems such as Dial-A-Job. (sic). It could be a touch-tone interactive system, much like the daily horoscope service where you touch tone your birthday and the IP's database accesses that slot in a word mailbox system. It could also provide a PIN screening/security system (heck, on your mark).

In Las Angeles, one teleconferencer (named here first) proposes Dial-A-Perseveron (not the real name). At live tone, press 1 for straight phone sex, 2 for gay sex, 3 for bestiality, and so on. He plans to do the same here. He also wants to bring to NY that same ability in teleconferencing whereby you touch tone your perversion and are connected to other like-minded people under the auspices of a specially-trained moderator. (One presumes that also means dogs and goats will have to be outfitted with beepers.)

He's a fascinating guy. He thinks the people who call are pretty sick and he hasn't called his own service in quite a while. He has own tapes checking up on his recording studio where new tapes are always in production. To make additional revenue, he not only uses the tapes in the several markets where he operates, he rents them to sales telepromoters around the country. (I thought that heavy breathing sounded familiar.)

976/970

Now, the over-popular passive 976/970. The new tariff has increased the charges for 976/970 calls. They now charge 23 cents per minute, a rate-of-charge discounting. If any such calls were made during the billing period, you'd be harassed to figure out how many. The charge will be added to the first line of your local call billing page. That's the one that looks like a spreadsheet. And guess what? They're also proposing to redesign that page. Even as you read this they are test marketing the new page. (How come they never ask me?)

Whereas now they start column one delineated by bands A, B, C, D, and E, they propose to actually state in that column where that band is (U WSTCHR, E SURFK, etc.). The first row will be the band you're in. Under that, all other rows will be the info for calls made to other areas within the LATA, listed in ascending order of cost (the further down, the more expensive). The next column is cost, initial, then incremental.

Next is the number of calls made during the day/night-discounted rate. Then the additional minutes column, then the total charged for that rate. That is where they'll buy the 976/970 26 cent costs. Says the phone company, "If they want to know how many calls were made, they can do the math." (Yeah, right. Now here's another reason to buy a PC for the home.) Also, they'll change the note on the bottom of the page if at least one 26 cent call was made during that billing period to indicate as such.

The revenue to the IP's also goes up. They earn their money based on call volume. Currently, the first 250,000 calls per month earn them two cents each. Then there are several increments until they hit the top level. Over 4,000,000 per month earns them 2.5 cents each. The new proposed levels are: 3.5 cents per call for the first 144,000 calls; 3.75 cents for 144,001 to 432,000 calls; 4 cents for 432,001 to 1,152,000 calls; 4.25 cents for 1,152,001 to 2,304,000 calls; and 4.5 cents for over 2,304,000 calls.

Why doesn't everyone sign up? (I haven't told you the bad news. Snowfalls. An IP must maintain a minimum call volume of 57,600 calls per month. Any amount under that will be charged to the vendor at a rate of 24.5 cents each. For example, let's say a dial-it service received only 21,000 calls in one month (700 calls a day, times 30 days). They'll earn 21,000 times 3.5 cents or \$735. Then they'll be hit with a "charge back" of 57,600 minus 21,000 times 24.5 cents or \$8,967. That yields them a negative \$8,232 for the month. (Talk about a big phone bill!) However, with a customer base of six million, your call volume should be tremendous. The good news is that this is a much lower charge back level than ever before. Telco wants to encourage more narrowbanding for this 57-cent secured passive AudioText service.

Which one space. This might all change between now and second quarter 1988. The IP's

have formed an association to fight the little bells, wherever they might be. For some reason, they feel the regional phone companies don't play fair when writing these tariffs. (There's a shock!) What effect they'll have between now and then remains to be seen. In the meantime, New York Tel continues its installation of a second page.

\$15 (and a \$16, \$18, \$19, and \$20)

95-1011	North-Worthy	North-Worthy
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95-1013
95-1014
95-1015
95-1016
95-1017
95-1018
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95-1020
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95-1060

Here are the results of the 2600 Contest, where we asked for funny and interesting ways of answering the phone: It was not quite what we expected. The most common entry was "City Murgar—you kill 'em, we chill 'em" or some similarly macabre variant. A few people, when they answer the phone, like to pretend that they are answering machines or telex recordings. Or even their local police department. Since so few of the entrants conform to our judgment criteria and since there was no clear winner, we're averaging out the two prizes offered and giving each of the three best entries a one-year extension to their 2600 subscriptions. And the winners:

"This is Bullwinkle. Wanna hear me pull a rabbit out of my hat?"—3-RARE, Prospect Heights, Illinois.

"If you tell me you've got the wrong number again, I'll carry out my threat."—North Babylon, New York.

"I thought I told you never to call me here."—Clintown Township, Michigan.

If you see your entry here, then you've received an extra year on your subscription.

2600 BACK ISSUES (continued from inside front cover)

1985

STANTON, 607-538-8118; S.S. 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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